The Dead-Point in Mind Tension.

It is a common subject of marvel that criminals in presence of immediate execution are usually self-possessed, and cution are usually self-possessed. The often exhibit singular composure. doomed creature sleeps through the night before his violent death, and rises composed to pass through the ordeal. The exceptions to this rule are few, and there is no reason to suppose that the individuals who display greater emotion, or who are prostrated by the agonizing prospect of death, feel their position more acutely than those who preserve control of their demeanor. It is a prevalent but groundless error to suppose that the state of mind in which most capital offenders meet their doom is one of scare or paralyzing amazement. They retain every faculty, taste, consideration, and even fancy. They frequently give tokens of especial thoughtfulness, and are punctilious in the observance of rules and the adoption of measures to minimize their own pain, and the trouble and sympathetic suffering of those by whom they are surrounded, or who will be left burdened with their memories. •Mentally and physically the criminal, during the last few hours of his life, in the immediate presence of a cruel death, is self-possessed and tranquil. His pulse is even less disturbed than those of the officials who are compelled to take part in his execution. Why is this? The answer will be obvious on reflection. The mind has reached what may be designated a "dead point" in its tension. The excitement is over, the agony of antici-pation, the trembling doubt between hope and fear of escape has exhausted the irritability of the mind, and there is, as it were, a pause, an interval of pas-sive endurance between the end of the struggle for life and the bitterness of remorse and agony of disappointment which may begin at death. In this interval the mind is released from the tension of its effort for self-preservation, and almost rebounds with the sense of relief that comes with certainty, even though the assurance be that of impending death. In the pause there is time and opportunity for the recognition of surrounding circumstances which have been, as it were, overlooked in the yearning for life. The clearness of mental vision, the cognizance of detail displayed at such a moment, are remarkable, not only on account of the strange circumstances under which they occur, but in degree. Men and women who have for some time previously exhibited no trace of delicacy or refinement exhibit characteristic traits of thoughtfulness. They are, so to say, lifted out of themselves and placed in new conditions calculated to awaken feelings of courtesy, which seldom fail to respond. The mental state of a criminal during the hours preceding execution presents features of intense interest to the psychologist, and, rightly comprehended, it is to be feared they would throw new light on the supposed preparation these unfortunate persons evince for a fate which, being nevitable, they at the final moment are able to meet with a composure in which hypocrisy or self-deception finds the amplest scope .- London Lancet.

Oyster Culture in China.

Like so many other peculiar things in the Celestial Empire, the Chinese system of oyster culture differs widely from that of Europe or America. In the southern parts of China "collectors" of bamboo are placed in the oyster beds, lowever, are prepared in a curious man-The canes are exposed for about two months to the rays of the sun, and then placed for the same period in salt water, after which they are again dried for several days. Notches are cut in the canes, into which empty oyster shells are fixed, and thus prepared they are driven into the seashore between high and low water-mark, and left standing to catch the young oyster spat. These ocalities are considered the best where the rise and fall of the tide is the greatest, so that the bivalves may be alternately covered by the flood and exposed to the air on ebb tide. A large trade is carried on by these collectors, and successful oyster culturists are known to have amassed considerable fortunes. the young oysters seem to develop very apidly, and are ready for the market when two years old. Large quantities vine.
of oysters are dried instead of being eatseaso n from the natural bed being inferiare the operation.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND, the largest nd to the south of Australia, is rapbecoming noted for the quality and it of its tin supplies. Four years the was \$35,000, while last year they unted to nearly \$1,500,000. A tin otain on the west coast produces 25 per cent. of tin; but the exsolid seams of the metal. sing the mountains in veins severin depth and width, has been estrated. Some nuggets weigh-several hundredweight each have found, yielding nearly cent per of pure metal.

HINTS FOR THE HOUSEHOLD.

Grape Butter.—Prepare your fruit the same as for preserves, allowing a pound of sugar to a pound of fruit, i pint of vinegar to 3 pounds of sugar; add a teaspoonful of cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon, and allspice; boil until jellied, stirring it all the time.

Stewed Tomatoes .- Scald with boiling water and remove the skins; place in a thick pan or pot and add 1 opion chop-ped fine and 1 dozen whole peppers; let them simmer gently for a couple of hours, then mash and add a piece of butter the size of an egg, pepper, salt, 1 teaspoonful of flour and 2 tablespoonfuls of sugar; stir until perfectly smooth and thick and serve immediately.

a sirup of about a quart of water at a time, putting in fruit enough for only one can; let your sirup, with the fruit in it, just come to a boil, putting them in the cans before they crack open. Seal

To Preserve Peaches .- Peel free-stone peaches and cut them in halves; weigh them and take their weights in sugar; put your sugar in a porcelain kettle and cover it well with cold water; add the beaten whites of 2 eggs to every ten pounds; stir it well and put it over the fire; boil and skim it until perfectly clear, then put in the peaches, and cook slowly until the sirup is as thick as honey, carefully removing the scum that rises to the top. Put them in your jars warm, and place paper, dipped in white of egg, on the top of the peaches. Fasten securely, and keep in a dry place.

Mange Pickles.-Take muskinelons and cut a small hole in the side that lies on the ground, take out the seed. Soak in weak brine 10 days (be sure and keep them all under the brine); take out and sprinkle on the inside with ground cloves, pepper and nutmeg, then fill them with strips of horseradish, cinnamon, small onions and string beans; fill the crevices with white mustard-seed. Replace the small pieces that were cut out and bind them in with some other villainy. If it had not been strips of white cloth sewed on; lay the for the experiment station, says an strips of white cloth sewed on; lay the melons in a stone-jar with the plugged side up and cover with a scalding-hot

Cucumber Pickle .- Take small and perfect cucumbers, not over a finger in length; pack in a stone-jar or wooden pail in layers, strewing salt thickly be-tween. Cover the top layer out of sight with salt and pour over cold water enough to cover all. Lay a plate or board on top with a stone to keep them down. Leave them for a week or month, stirring from the bottom every day. Be sure your brine is strong enough to bear an egg. When you are ready to pickle them throw away the brine and any of the cucumbers that have grown soft, lay the rest in cold fresh water for 24 hours. Change the water for fresh and leave another day. Have a kettle ready lined with vine leaves, put in the pickles in layers and scatter powdered alum among them. A bit of alum as large as a pigeon-egg is enough for a two gallon kettle full. Fill with cold water, cover thick with vine leaves, put a close lid over all and set over a slow fire for six hours, but do not let them boil. When the pickles are a fine green remove the leaves and throw the cucumbers into very cold water. Let them stand in this of bamboo are placed in the oyster beds, while you prepare the vinegar as follows—to 1 gallon, allow 1 cup sugar, 3 to rate tiles and "hives" employed in France. These bamboo oyster catchers, whole cloves, half as much allspice, 1 the movements of a horse, in a majority of cases, is to shorten the toe of the hind shoes. By this arrangement the dozen blades of mace. Boil 5 minutes; horse will pick up his fore feet quicker put the cucumbers into a stone-jar and his hind feet slower, thus accompour this spiced vinegar boiling hot over them. Cover closely; 2 days later, pour off this vinegar, scald it again and pour hot over them. Repeat this process 3 times with intervals of 2 days between. Cover close and keep in a cool dry place. They will be ready for eat-

FARM TOPICS.

ing in about 2 months.

THE WAY TO RAISE TOMATOES .-There are a great many persons who cultivate the tomato in their gardens, and have never yet learned the true secret of doing it well. I was formerly in this crowd, myself. At first I let them grow as they liked, falling down and spreading over the ground like a vine. They never lasted through the season in this condition. The fruit that lay upon the earth rotted, or was preyan in a fresh state. For this purpose lay upon the earth rotted, or was preybey are taken from the shells, simply ed upon by slugs, worms and mice. Then I raised them above the ground by laying down posts or scantling, and tonce, after which they are exposed to be rays of the sun till every particle of covering with lath, old pickets, or strips loosture has evaporated. The finest of boards. This was better, but was not satisfactory. Somebody recomble bankoo, "synloh," are selected to he bamboo "culch," are selected for mended that they should be trained on stakes, a stalk to a stake. This was still an improvement so far as the fruit quality, and not sufficiently fat to was concerned, but it did not come up to the operation. When I will tell you what that is: Set your plants in a row or rows, if you have so many, say 18 to 24 inches apart. Then put in two stout posts at the ends. Then strain galvanized or other wire upon these posts so the value of its exports of tin and as to get about four on them one above another. If your posts are some distance apart, set stakes with a crow-bar along between, drive a nail at the level of the wire, on which the wires should rest and be fastened, and as your plants come forward, tie them to your wires. If too luxuriant, trim off the superfluous You will be astonished at the results of this treatment. Your fruit will be in profusion, large in size, and sound. Such a trellis makes a " a sight to behold." What is more, your plants

mense shiftlessness on your part ever to be satisfied with any other mode of cul-tivation.—Country Genthman.

CURING SITTERS.—Our plan of curing sitting hens of their broody propensities is somewhat different from the old lady who cured her hens of the roup by wringing their necks. That will, no doubt, effectually remove the disease, but will soon reduce the size of the flock. The idea of ducking a poor broody hen to make her stop her clucking and moth-erly propensities is about as absurd and useless as putting their heads under their wirgs, or whirling them around until they are almost senseless, and then flinging them over the fence to meditate on their past iniquities. There are others who yoke up their broody hens the same as many do the geese they Canned Grapes.—Take the Concord grape when fully ripe, stemming them without breaking any more than can be helped; allow a little over ‡ of a pound of sugar to a pound of fruit; make the same as many do the geese they wish to keep from going through the fences. The plan may be highly ornamental and diverting, yet it is rarely productive of the desired result. These are mostly the plans resorted to in "ye olden times," when dung-hill fowls, whose powers of endurance were of the highest order, were the rule and purebred fowls the exception. There is a far more sensible, as well as effectual, plan now in vogue, and that is to put all the broody hens into a commodious coop— those hens you do not wish to set—put a young, active cockerel in with them, and they will ere long forget their broody ways .- Poultry World.

FRAUD IN FERTILIZERS .- American farmers are quite as shamefully victimized by manure dealers as those who live in the Old World. Professor S. W. Johnson, director of the Connecticut experiment station, in his recently issued annual report, exposes the worthlessness of certain so-called fertilizers which he has examined. He obtained samples of the fertilizers sold by one firm at \$32 a ton, and found by analysis that they were worth less than \$1 per ton. It was afterwards discovered that the firm was merely engaged in barreling up harbor sand and mud and selling it to farmers at \$32 per ton. Fortunately the firm was forced to close up its swindling business, and the last in-formation from its chief member was that he was in jail in Massachusetts for American exchange, the swindlers might have made a fortune from one year's sale of mud at \$32 per ton.

BROCCOLI .- This vegetable is of Italian origin, and is much more used in England than with us, but it deserves a place in every small garden, as it is an excellent vegetable. It resembles the cauliflower, but its leaves and heads are purplish, and it is nearly as good for the table, and much easier of culture, as it is much more hardy, and is not injured by the first touch of the frost. There are several varieties, some of which are planted for fall use in the spring, others in the autumn for spring use. Broccoli in the autumn for spring use. Broccoli requires a rich, deep soil, and the seeds should be thinly planted, and covered slightly, and when the plants are three or four inches in height, they should be transplanted three feet apart, and kept free from weeds. The plants can be protected from winter use by laying them in pits like cabbages, or planting them out in boxes in the cellar, where the heads will form nicely. When rightly managed, broccoli can be had for the table six or seven months in the year.

OVER-REACHING.—The Germantown Telegraph gives the following remedy for this defect in horses: "A sure way plishing just what is wanted. If a quarter of a second of time is therefore gained the fore foot will be clear out of the way of the hind foot, with its elong-ated toe. We owned a valuable horse once subject to over-reaching. He was taken in hand by several experienced shoers, and every one adopted the com-mon erroneous methods. Being in the stable one day, we sat down upon a chair after examining the shoes, to devise some way to cure the animal of this defect, and the conclusion we arrived at led to insisting upon the shoer following our instructions; the result of it was a complete success. Now and then a new shoer would not be aware of this over-reaching, and would shoe in the old way, when the over-reaching was as bad as ever till the first shoes were removed. We had another horse cured in the same way, as at that time had many other persons. Indeed, we have never known this method to fail when properly followed."

Horse-Shoeing.—Every horse-owner should become in a measure acquainted with the peculiarities of his horses' hoofs and the special needs required in each case. He should be competent to make suggestions and judge of the nature of the work done. A stumbling horse may often be cured of the habit by judicious shoeing, and one-half of the horses a little lame are made so by the work of the farrier. The weight of the shoe is a matter of much importance. A carriage horse for light driving needs a shoe of much less weight than a dray or omni-bus horse, and yet the same class of shoes is often applied to both. But few have any adequate conception of the amount of muscular force expended by the horse in carrying his shoes. A French investigator estimates that a Paris omnibus horse in his day's work of four hours, and with shoes weighing two pounds, lifts weight on their account of 115,200 pounds.

to behold." What is more, your plants to behold. Under the plants will continue to grow and produce until Logansport, Ind., was cutting oats, when the team attached to a reaper ran away, throwing Payton in front of the personal person you have tried it once, it will argue im- sickle and injuring him fatally.

—The Superintendent approached a youth of color, who was present for the first time in Sunday-School, and inquired his name, for the purpose of placing it on the roll. The good man tried in vain to preserve his gravity when the answer was returned: "Well, massa calls me Cap'n; but my maiden name is Moses."

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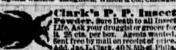
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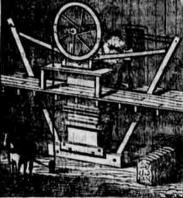
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